(c) the grievances of the teachers who are agitating against UGC recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

NGOs working for development of education in Assam

1346. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing financial assistance to Non-Government Organisations functioning at present in Assam, for development of education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Human Resource Development is providing financial assistance to Non-Government Organisations in the State of Assam for development of education under various schemes *viz.*, Non-Formal Education, Adult Education, Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel Facilities to Girls Students of Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools and Promotion of Sanskrit, Vocationalisation of Secondary Education etc. Details of such grants of Rs. one lakh and above are given in the Annual Reports of the Ministry.

Planning Commission's recommendations for Elementary Education

1347. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has made certain specific recommendations to achieve the target of Universalisation of Elementary Education;

(b) if so, what are the details of the major recommendations; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government for implementation of the recommendations of the Planning Commission in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has not made any specific recommendation to achieve the target of Universalisation of Elementary Education. However, the Planning Commission has given their comments on the new Programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which has been recently approved by the Central Government. The new programme envisages eight years of elementary schooling by 2010.

Posts Graduate level IT courses

1348. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the courses related to Information Technology at Post Graduate level are not adequately available in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Ministry to provide adequate teaching facilities, at Post Graduate level, for Information Technology studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) 145 courses related to Information Technology with a total intake of 2573 are currently, available at the post graduate level in the country. Due to rapid expansion in the field of IT education, there has been a greater requirement of teachers with post graduate qualifications in IT in the recent years. To meet this requirement, a number of steps have been initiated by the Government. These include Early Faculty Induction Programme (EEIP) and Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) in IT. These programmes will help in meeting shortage for teachers in IT education in higher-technical education institutes and will also promote post graduate education in IT in the country.

Criteria for admission into IT courses

1349. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria adopted for admission into IT courses in Engineering Colleges;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of India have given permission to